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Province extends school closure

by JENN WATT
Editor

Trillium Lakelands District School Board staff are putting the pieces in place to support students to study from home as the Ontario government announced Tuesday that schools will not reopen until May 4 at the earliest.

Medical experts advised the province that the "next two weeks will be critical in the fight against COVID-19," which led to the decision to keep staff and students at home, said Premier Doug Ford on March 31.

The local school board has been working to prepare its TLDSB Learning@Home page and over the last week have been corresponding with staff about how to best support students, said Catherine Shedden, communications manager for the school board.

"Yesterday we provided our school administrators with our continuity of learning plan which we are calling ... 'TLDSB Learning@Home,'" Shedden said in an email to the *Minden Times* on Tuesday. "Principals are now sharing this with teaching staff. Our next step will be to determine the capacity families have to be able to participate - there will be messaging going to homes this evening with a survey asking questions about home connectivity, devices, and the best way to communicate with the teacher, etc."

Expectations for students were released

see MINISTRY page 9



Providing care for wildlife

Volunteer Jennifer Coates uses a light to examine a pigeon's eye as Monika Melichar holds the bird still at the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary on March 28. The charity has about 45 animals in their care and depend on donations. During the COVID-19 state of emergency, they've noticed a drop in vehicle collisions with animals, but also a drop in donations. They welcome ailing animals, but ask that you call ahead. Go to woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca for details. /DARREN LUM Staff

Haliburton opens COVID-19 assessment centre

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

The newly opened COVID-19 assessment centre at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre on Gelert Road accepted its first pa-

tients on Tuesday, March 31.

Patients are being seen by appointment only and must first complete the province's online or Telehealth Ontario's telephone assessment process. Those who are advised through that process to go to a community assessment centre will then call the Haliburton Family Medical Centre to arrange an ap-

pointment at 705-457-1212.

"The assessment clinic isn't for anybody who wants to just be checked for COVID-19, it's basically for people who have symptoms and have had potential exposure," Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team said.

see RESULTS page 9

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COVID-19

Coronavirus

Municipal work continues amid COVID-19 crisis

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Like many residents of Haliburton County, political leaders have been working from home amid the coronavirus outbreak, and while regular processes including council meetings have been suspended for the time being, municipal work continues.

"This is an extremely busy time for local government and although meetings are suspended there remains much to do for those involved in ongoing pandemic planning," Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt wrote in an email to the *Times*. "Across the county and beyond, decision-makers and their teams – from municipalities to emergency services to health care – are working hard to protect the community."

On March 17, Premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency in Ontario over COVID-19, which Moffatt noted automatically authorizes municipalities to take action under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, which in turn gives municipalities legislated powers to go with that, whether those municipalities declare their own states of emergency or not.

The County of Haliburton and most of its lower-tier townships have declared their own states of emergency, and local councils have suspended their regular meetings, delegating authority to either a team consisting of their mayors and chief administrative officers, or emergency management groups, to make decisions and sign paperwork to allow the day-to-day operations of the municipalities to continue. Each municipality has an emergency management group – sometimes called an emergency operations centre, or emergency operations group – led by its community emergency manager co-ordinator, typically the fire chief, and consisting of some members of council and a cross-section of department heads.

"EOG [emergency operations group] decisions that affect people's lives are weighed very carefully and there's certainly no joy in closing recreation centres or restricting landfill use," Moffatt told the paper. "Closures and restrictions aren't done 'just because,' but in relation to any number of factors over which we may have no control, or over which we need to ensure control. It would take only one change in the supply chain of municipal business to further disrupt services, and these many 'what if' possibilities have our full attention."

Essentially all municipal facilities, including administration offices, in all of the county's townships have been closed to the public until further notice. Landfills remain open, typically with reduced hours and reduced operations, in terms of what residents are permitted to drop off.

The ongoing situation means keeping a close eye on daily announcements from the federal and provincial governments.

"Almost without exception they have implications for mu-

nicipal government," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, adding that residents can rest assured that while regular processes may not be in place, the wheels of local government are still turning, if not running in overdrive. "Just because they don't see us, doesn't mean we're not doing anything."

Within the Township of Minden Hills, Devolin said most of the employees who'd normally work out of the township's administration office are working from home with the assistance of digital technology and that just a few employees, including chief administrative officer/treasurer Lorrie Blanchard, continue to work from the office, which Devolin noted is separated into three distinct zones.

In the roads department, Devolin explained that workers have been divided into two separate teams, working from two separate bases, in order to minimize interaction.

"We started staggering the time they come in and the time they leave," he said, adding these measures have now been in place for more than a week. A similar system has been created for employees in the township's community services department to mitigate the places and times where employees might overlap. While there was a pause in work on the township's arena project while the provincial government announced what type of work was "essential" or not within Ontario for the time being, Devolin told the paper that work on the construction project was to resume this week.

Staff in Algonquin Highlands have also been working from home as much as possible.

"Staff, too, are working in a challenging environment that changes almost daily, and in a sector deemed 'exempt' from the non-essential business shutdown," Moffatt wrote. "Working from home presents a variety of challenges – not the least of which are reliable cell and broadband signals, and I'm proud of the dedicated AH team that's juggling the needs of each other, their own families, and the public's interests."

"I'm working very closely with the AH CAO who has enormous responsibility not only for the wellbeing of staff but also for the continuity of municipal business – all while the EOG is altering that continuity each time it meets," Moffatt wrote. "There are many moving pieces to this work, and countless pandemic-related decisions are considered every day."

The Township of Minden Hills declared a state of emergency on March 18, and with three states of emergency related to flooding in the past seven years, and what Devolin said was a near state of emergency due to a transformer fire at the Minden Hills Hydro One substation in the summer of 2018, the mayor said the township has learned lessons in dealing with emergencies.

"Circumstances can happen fast enough that they can get away on you in terms of planning," Devolin said, emphasizing the township was trying to stay ahead of the curve with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While there were no confirmed cases of the virus within Haliburton County at press time, an assessment centre outside the Haliburton Family Medical Centre was being opened this week.

"There's no question it's all exhausting," Moffatt wrote. "Our antagonist is invisible and we don't know where, when or how severely it may strike here. These are extraordinary times and if we're not monitoring the news, we're talking about it; reviewing the latest information, considering next steps, thinking ahead for the community's best interests around things like worker exposure, firefighter safety, service levels, community economics, public needs, future workloads, information provision ... and so much more."

Devolin said he's concerned for the county's 18,000 year-round residents, many of whom are senior citizens.

"We have a significant at-risk group," he said, adding that based on infection rates in other countries, before the pandemic is over, it's likely most county residents will at least know someone affected by the virus, if they don't contract it themselves.

"There's not going to be anybody untouched in this county," he said.

Devolin, who's been working from his dining room for nearly three weeks, told the paper he hasn't slept properly during that same time period.

The province has granted municipal councils permission to hold virtual meetings during times of emergency, and both Moffatt and Devolin said the logistics of implementing

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If by your actions, you can protect yourself and others, just do it.

— MINDEN HILLS MAYOR BRENT DEVOLIN

”

electronic meetings were being reviewed, and Devolin said that ideally, by the end of April, he was hoping meetings of Minden Hills council could resume electronically.

Along with conferring with members of their emergency management groups, CAOs and updating members of their councils, Devolin and Moffatt have been in regular contact with their county council colleagues.

Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen told the *Times* she appreciates the way community residents are working together to get through this difficult time.

"This truly is an extraordinary and troubling time for us all, but what I continually find most remarkable is how times like this bring us all together and make us stronger," Danielsen wrote in an email. "I see examples of people working together, answering calls to duty that they would normally never be asked to do; people continuing to volunteer, particularly at our local radio station, people sharing, being innovative and being very brave. I'm grateful to all of the organizations and ad hoc groups that have been offering support, and food and even financial assistance to those in greater need. We have an aging population, many of whom are on a fixed income, who depend on services that may not be available at times like we are experiencing. We could not be without you."

Danielsen explained the county's emergency management group has been meeting three times per week, some members via teleconference, and that county officials have also been teleconferencing with a pandemic task force consisting of health care professionals throughout the region.

"Will we get it right? I think we're as prepared as we can be, and where we fall short, plans are in place to meet the need to the greatest extent we are capable as things progress," Danielsen wrote. "We'll make mistakes along the way, but it's all part of the learning curve, and I believe all of our emergency control groups have caught stride and are prepared. I'm hoping that we'll all hold off on finger pointing until the dust settles and we can debrief and improve our emergency plans. Now is the time to stand together and support one another."

Danielsen, Devolin and Moffatt all strongly encouraged residents to abide by directives to practice social distancing and self-isolation as much as possible.

"It is frustrating to see that some people, albeit in fairly small numbers, thank goodness, seem to throw caution to the wind and insist on ignoring all the signs or professional advice and charge forward without thought of the risk they bring to themselves and others," Danielsen wrote. "It is ironic that our safety lies in staying apart from each other when we need each other the most, and I hope those careless few will finally come to understand that."

"In uncharted waters like these, common sense, kindness and patience are our best protection," Moffatt told the paper. "I'm thankful for the tremendous support extended by the public thus far; and appreciate the continued messages and emails. While we're working hard at our roles, I ask that you work hard on yours: make the tough choices, do the right thing, think of others. Hunker down. Don't hoard. Avoid unnecessary outings; and follow the public health recommendations so we can all look back with confidence in having made the best choices for the place we all love."

Devolin said that residents should live each day as though they have the virus.

"If by your actions, you can protect yourself and others, just do it," he said. "Assume you have it, and that anyone you come in contact with, you can give it to them, and they can give it you."



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Multiple COVID-19-related deaths at Bobcaygeon nursing home

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Times Staff

At least nine residents of the Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon had died of complications related to COVID-19 as of the afternoon of March 31, and more than 20 of the home's staff had tested positive for the virus, making it the worst outbreak in the province.

As of the afternoon of March 31, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit confirmed on its website that nine of some 65 residents at the facility had died of the coronavirus. An additional two deaths have occurred there since an outbreak was declared March 18, but the health unit

says those two deaths were not related to COVID-19.

"This is not 'real time' data and will be at least 25 hours behind current updates," a disclaimer on the health unit website reads. "The numbers may differ from other sources, as data are extracted at different times."

As of the afternoon of March 31, some major media outlets were reporting there had been at least a dozen deaths at the Bobcaygeon nursing home.

The outbreak was declared after three residents tested positive for the virus, however, in line with provincial rules, no other residents were tested.

"In following our provincial outbreak guidelines, we did not do any additional tests on residents as we already had confirmation the virus was in the home," Dr. Lynn

Noseworthy, medical officer of health for the HKPR Health Unit said in a press release.

As of Friday, at least 35 residents of Pinecrest were displaying symptoms of the virus, which can have the most lethal effects in the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

Additionally, as of March 30, 24 employees of the nursing home had tested positive for COVID-19, with test results for another 10 pending.

"Once the initial respiratory outbreak was declared, staff at Pinecrest followed all proper procedures to help contain the spread of the virus," the release reads. "Ill staff did not come to work, arrangements were made to have them tested and they were advised to self-isolate at home; residents were isolated as best they could be in the smaller facility;

group activities were stopped; and meals were served to residents on trays rather than in the dining room."

The nursing home has been closed to visitors since March 14 to all but "compassionate visits," which typically mean people going to visit at relative at the end of their life.

"This is truly a horrible time for the families and friends of the residents, as well as our staff," Mary Carr, administrator of the Pinecrest Nursing Home said in the release. "We have a number of medically fragile and vulnerable people living in our home; our residents are like family to our staff. Our sympathies go out to all of the families and friends of the people we have lost."

"This outbreak of COVID-19 is currently the largest outbreak in the province,"

see **OUTBREAK** page 4

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DISCLAIMER

The information provided on this page is considered current and valid as of March 31, 2020.

While the Township of Minden Hills works diligently to provide the public with the most current information regarding service provisions and reductions during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware that, due to the rapidly evolving nature of the outbreak, information can, and may, change on a daily basis. The public is strongly encouraged to refer to our website at www.mindenhills.ca for current and up-to-date information. Anyone unable to access the website can call 705-286-1260 or email admin@mindenhills.ca for assistance.

TOWNSHIP SERVICE PROVISION REDUCTIONS

A reminder that all Township facilities remain closed to the public, until further notice. Administrative call answering services will remain available between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday, 705-286-1260 x 200 or admin@mindenhills.ca.

Please provide your name, contact information (phone and/or email) and a clear and brief message regarding the reason for your call.

The public can be assured that essential services will be maintained as much as possible.

We are asking the public to restrict inquiries to Township priority requests only and please understand that it may take longer to reply to messages as Staff handle increased phone and email inquiries.

We are also asking the public for their patience during this time and to observe our request to contact the Township for municipal related inquiries by the following methods only:

Telephone: 705-286-1260 x. 200

Email: admin@mindenhills.ca

Please do not call or email the various Departments or their related extensions or submit inquiries through the Minden Hills website Contact Us form. Please refer to the list below for **NEW and/or UPDATED** service provision reductions. For a complete list of all Township service provision reductions, please go to: <https://www.mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information/>

SERVICE PROVISION REDUCTIONS:

Meetings

All Council, Committee of the Whole, Public, Advisory Committee and Local Board regularly scheduled meetings have been suspended until further notice. Staff are working diligently to find a solution for moving forward the business of Council and to resume meetings as soon as possible; by means that meet legislative requirements, provides transparency to the public, and adheres to all safety measures for Staff, Council and members of the Public.

Property Assessment Values and Assessment Review Board:

The Request for Reconsideration (RfR) deadline is usually March 31st of the applicable taxation year. However, given the emergency declared by the Province of Ontario, pursuant to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and regulations made thereunder, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, (MPAC) has announced that the RfR deadline for the 2020 taxation year will be 16 days after the emergency is lifted.

<https://www.mpac.ca/>

For information regarding Assessment Review Board deferrals and timelines, please refer to the Board's website **under News and Updates:**

<https://elto.gov.on.ca>

Any person verbally harassing or abusing site staff and/or failing to comply with the above requirements or regular waste facility rules/regulations will be suspended from attending the site for the remainder of the Provincial and Municipal declared COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

Water Testing

(Laboratory testing of well water)

The Haliburton HKPR District Health Unit is closed to the public, however water bottles can be picked up, and returned samples can be dropped off, outside the office located at 191 Highland Street, Unit 301, Haliburton, Monday to Thursday - 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. All returned water samples are to be placed in the cooler provided outside of the building. Ensure that you are practicing social/physical distancing.

Please call ahead as pick up/drop off times may change
1-866-888-4577, ext. 5006.

Waste Sites (Landfills)

Reduced services at waste sites to the acceptance of bagged garbage and household recycling only was undertaken in response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the announcement of these reductions on March 18, 2020, site traffic has not reduced. Residents are attending waste sites in higher volumes than is typical for this time of year, and many are attending with minimal amounts of waste. The Township of Minden Hills is urging residents to avoid waste sites as much as possible, in order to reduce the number of individuals on site at any given time.

Do not attend waste sites unless you have accumulated 3 full bags of garbage

When attending waste sites, please adhere to the following:

- **Do not** bring passengers to waste sites unless you need physical assistance unloading your vehicle or have no other arrangements made for watching a dependant (child, elderly, etc.)
- **Do not** cross any physical barriers put in place at each site.
- **Do not** approach attendants for assistance unless you are in physical distress.
- **Do not** attend the site with any materials beyond bagged household waste and recycling.
- **Do not** enter the site attendant's shelter or bring food or beverages for the site attendants.
- **Do not** exit your vehicle with the exception of unloading your vehicle at the household waste bin and recycling bins.
- All communication with site staff shall be completed through the window of your vehicle, and shall be limited to discussions regarding the disposal of your waste.
- When you have exited your vehicle, ensure that you are practicing social/physical distancing with a minimum of 2m (6 feet) between yourself and members of the public.

Any person verbally harassing or abusing site staff and/or failing to comply with the above requirements or regular waste facility rules/regulations will be suspended from attending the site for the remainder of the Provincial and Municipal declared COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

Please remember that these are **temporary** measures put in place to stop the transmission of COVID-19 and **a return to normal operations will require the immediate and full cooperation of the public.**

SPRING THAW REMINDER

A reminder that springtime is typically the time of year when periods of precipitation historically occur. Property owners are reminded to be aware of and monitor their situation, as each can vary depending on: distance from watershed(s), distance from an unaffected accessible road, height of land, property saturation levels; and the availability, number, size and type of sump pump, etc.

Residents in areas that are susceptible to flooding should take necessary precautions to protect property, and continue to monitor developing conditions. Please use caution around area lakes, rivers, creeks and other water sources such as ditches, as high water levels and swift currents can create unstable conditions. Avoid driving on any roadways that are underwater, as road conditions may be unstable and dangerous. Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters in Canada. Take steps to protect your property:

- Install backflow valves or standpipes to prevent sewer lines from backing up.
- Elevate your washer, dryer, water heater, oil tank, furnace and electrical wiring on concrete blocks. If you're unable to raise an item, anchor it and protect it with a floodwall or shield.
- **Install a sump pump system if you have below-grade floors. For more information on sump pump maintenance, see below.**
- Landscape with plants and vegetation that resist soil erosion.
- Store any irreplaceable family items and important documents somewhere other than the basement.
- Install a flood-detection device in your basement that sounds an alarm or calls your phone if it senses water.

Be prepared - build an Emergency Survival Kit that allows you to be self-sufficient for at least 72 Hours. Keep Emergency contacts near your phone.

SUMP PUMP MAINTENANCE

Old or new, although your sump pump may not be used regularly, it's important to keep your sump pump in working condition. A number of sump pumps sit quietly for most of the year until the spring thaw or rainy season starts and we assume or expect these tools to jump into action.

IMPORTANT – Due to the current requirement for social/physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be difficult for a contractor to visit your home for repairs and/or maintenance. Please call your contractor directly to discuss a plan for any required repairs or maintenance.

Suggestions:

- Ensure the sump pit is clear of debris and all electrical connections are plugged in correctly and circuit breakers are operational.
- Check your maintenance manual for instructions on how to check the float, test the check valve and clean the impeller.
- Remember to keep all items up and off the floor where potential flooding could occur.

COVID-19

Coronavirus

Demand at county food banks growing

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a number of Haliburton County residents have been laid off of work, and local food banks are experiencing an increase in demand.

“We anticipate demands (and costs) at the food bank are going to grow significantly,” David Ogilvie, chair of the board for the 4Cs Food Bank and Lily Ann told the *Times* in an email. “Sadly, we made the decision to close the Lily Ann Thrift Store which is a significant source of our funding. We would ask people to hold off making drop offs until we are able to resume normal store operations.”

Ogilvie said demand at the food bank is up some 20 per cent.

“We have been busy with our regular clients plus a high percentage – over 20 per cent – of new clients and folk who have not used the food bank for many months,” he wrote. “We expect this trend to ramp up until promised government plans start to take effect.”

The federal government has announced a series of financial aid measures to assist those whose income has been affected by the ongoing pandemic.

The 4Cs is currently maintaining its regular hours – open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – but has modified its operations to minimize human



The county's food banks, including the Minden Community Food Bank, are seeing an increase in demand as people lose their jobs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
/CHAD INGRAM Staff

contact. Clients are not permitted to enter the food bank, but rather, are served one at a time from the door. Also, rather than choosing foods, for the time being, food is coming in the form of pre-packed boxes.

“The distribution of the Good Food Box was delayed by a week this month and we are anticipating it will also continue as scheduled with a slightly modified pick up process,” Ogilvie added.

At this time, cash donations – which can be

made online – are preferred over donations of actual food items. “At this time we would prefer cash as accepting food donations presents physical challenges,” Ogilvie wrote.

More information and the food bank's mailing address can be found on its website at www.haliburton4cs.org and e-transfers can be made to 4csfoodbank@gmail.com.

“We have assisted five people who have lost their jobs,” said Joanne Barnes, manager of the Minden Community Food Bank. “I expect this number to increase steadily beginning [this] week. No one is allowed into the facility. We fill the order and leave products loose in [a] shopping cart. We push it out the front door and clients pack their order. When [the] cart is empty we bring it just inside the door and sanitize it completely before using it again.”

“We are well stocked and also have a surplus of meals ready for whatever happens,” Barnes said. “We continue with the highest number of clients in our history.”

More than 225 families rely on Minden's food bank. It remains open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The phone number for the Minden Community Food Bank is 705-286-6838.

The Central Food Network operates the food banks in Wilberforce (the Highlands East Food Hub) and Cardiff, as well as Heat Bank Haliburton County.

“The Central Food Network takes the health and safety of its volunteers, staff and people accessing services very seriously,” reads a statement from CFN. “We are mind-

ful of the efforts being undertaken to stymie the spread of COVID-19 and our responsibility to aid in those efforts while also continuing to address food- and heat-insecurity in our community. With concerns growing about COVID-19, we wish to provide an update on our actions to date and our response plan.”

The existing hours at the Wilberforce and Cardiff food banks will remain in effect for existing members only. Anyone who is not a member but requires help with food is asked to call 705-448-9711.


For existing members, service is transitioning to a hamper-style service, where clients will be asked to wait outside while a volunteer provides them with a food hamper. Everyone is asked to remain at least two metres from one another, and anyone feeling ill is asked not to attend the food banks, but to call 705-448-9711 to discuss options.

Heat Bank Haliburton County is suspending home deliveries for the time being. Staff continue to be available at 705-306-0565 or at heatbankhc@gmail.com.

SIRCH Community Services has provided frozen meals for a number of years through its Community Kitchen program, but intends to ramp up production of those meals to assist county residents during the pandemic. Those meals will be delivered to local food banks, and can also be picked up from SIRCH Central, which is located at 2 Victoria St. in Haliburton Village, next to the laundromat. SIRCH Central will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and meals can be picked up during that time.

“We will be using social distancing protocols to help keep people safe. We prepare and package the meals under the very strict COVID-19 protocols to ensure meals are prepared in compliance with the latest food-handling and sanitation guidelines,” reads a release from SIRCH. “No one will be allowed inside the building. The meals will be put into bags and brought out to you.”

SIRCH has no base funding for the provision of these meals and is looking for community donations to continue providing the service. Donations can be made online at 22.sirch.on.on/donate with Visa or Mastercard, or by phoning 705-457-1742 with either credit card. Cheques can be mailed to SIRCH Community Services at Box 687, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0. E-transfers can be made to stacy_mclean@sirch.on.ca. For more information, visit www.sirch.on.ca or SIRCH's Facebook page.



**MINDEN · HALIBURTON
HEARING SERVICE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Hearing is considered essential. We are open in Minden and Haliburton. Covid – 19 has certainly changed our day to day hearing service. To protect our valued patients, and our wonderful staff we have implemented substantial disinfection procedures to help ensure the safety for all.

1. We will see patients ONLY by booked appointments. Absolutely no walk ins until further notice.
2. Our office is sanitized between each and every patient. If you are bringing in a hearing device for repair, for reprogramming or for any service please call us and book your time and we will accommodate you. Our outside door will be locked and we will meet you at the door to let you in. If you feel more comfortable waiting in your car we will simply take your device from you (wearing disposable gloves) and determine whether we can fix it on site or if we need to send it out for repair. Any reprogramming can be done without you being present. It will be done simulating your loss but will help avoid any one on one contact.
3. We are shortening our hours to allow staff to return to their homes as quickly as possible. Please leave a message on our answering machine and we will call you back once we return to our offices. We will check all messages daily. Please be brief. Leave your name and number.
4. Gord and I as well as Lindsay and Debbie are all committed to helping our community get through this difficult time. Be safe and remember we are all in this together...be kind ...be patient with each other...be a Haliburtonian.

Sincerely,
Gord and Kathryn Kidd
Minden Haliburton Hearing Service
705-457-9171 • 705-286-6001

Outbreak worst in province

from page 3

Noseworthy said, “and really brings home how devastating and deadly this virus can be for older people in our communities. I am asking everyone to do everything they can to stop the spread of this virus – if not to protect yourself but to protect others who need our care.”

Anyone who is feeling ill is encouraged to self-isolate and everyone is asked to practice physical distancing – staying at least two metres from one another – and regular and thorough hand-washing. Anyone over the age of 70 and anyone with a compromised immune

system is also encouraged to self-isolate at home.

As of the afternoon of March 31, there were 52 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the jurisdiction of the HKPR Health Unit, that jurisdiction including Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes. Of those cases, 41 have been confirmed within the City of Kawartha Lakes, 11 in Northumberland, and none within the County of Haliburton. A COVID-19 assessment centre was being set up in the parking lot of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre this week.

COVID-19

Coronavirus

Cottager influx would strain health system, doctors say

by JENN WATT
Editor

In a letter distributed through social media channels over the weekend, the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team reached out to seasonal residents, asking them to think about the limited resources available in the county before they decide to come to the area during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We face some harsh realities recognizing that we have limited capacity to manage a health emergency. A substantial influx of visitors will further challenge our ability to source adequate beds, medical supplies, equipment and personal protective equipment to manage this pandemic," reads the letter, which is signed by the physicians of Haliburton County.

The Haliburton hospital has only 15 beds with a small number of doctors available, the letter says, and while Minden has an emergency department, it has no in-patient beds.

"Neither location is equipped as an ICU [intensive care unit] and each has two transport ventilators that are used for transport to the closest ICU over an hour away. We anticipate that our closest ICU will be strained supporting the population within its radius," the letter says, reminding the public that moving those with COVID-19 poses a greater risk to health-care workers.

"We collectively have a lot of work to do and look forward to when this threat is behind us and we can all rest and truly enjoy our county again," the letter says. "Until then we ask that you recognize the limits of our local health-care system and consider remaining at your primary residence where you will receive more advanced care if you require it."

Some mayors in cottage country have been warning seasonal residents that the health-care system in the region

doesn't have the capacity to handle an influx of patients. On Friday, Premier Doug Ford echoed those concerns.

Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen said the county has been encouraged by various sectors to ask the seasonal population to avoid the area, "but initially the county's Emergency Control Group has been reluctant to tell folks who own homes that they cannot come to them. We also did not have the tools to enforce people to stay away. We have to consider that these folks pay taxes on those properties and should reasonably be able to have the same rights as permanent residents. They look to those homes as safe havens and possibly better places to self isolate given our reduced popu-

lation and rural setting."

She said information has gone out reminding cottagers that there is a limited ability to handle higher demand on services.

"In the last week I have sent out messaging (see county website) in the form of news releases and public service announcements on Canoe FM, telling cottagers that they should think about the fact that they could be putting themselves and others at risk given our facilities and health professionals' limited ability to handle an influx of illnesses," she said.

The county has also been urging people to practice physical distancing and avoid areas where people are gathering, last week reminding those who have returned from international travel that they must self-isolate for 14 days.

A coronavirus assessment centre is planned for the parking lot outside the Haliburton Family Medical Centre, which is to open this week.

In a weekly update from Haliburton Highlands Health Services for the week ending March 27 it is stated that supplies of personal protective equipment are running low and while they are sufficient to meet current demand, they are working with regional partners to secure more. They are also hoping to find more of this equipment from other sectors and members of the community.

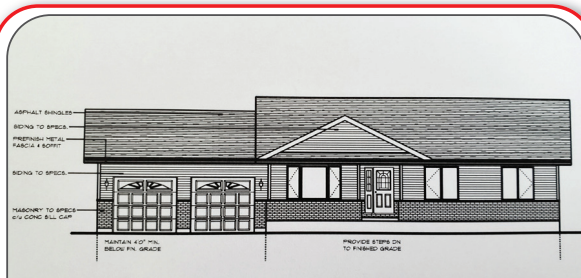
On Sunday evening, Dr. Theresa Tam reiterated that those in cities should not travel to rural areas to wait out the pandemic. She tweeted: "Urban dwellers/cottagers should RESIST THE URGE to head to the #cottage and rural properties as these communities have less capacity to manage #COVID19. A) You need to #PlankTheCurve in the city ... B) "COVID19 time is NOT #cottage time"; #StayHome in the city and DO NOT put rural communities at further risk during the #COVID19 crisis."

“

A substantial influx of visitors will further challenge our ability to source adequate beds, medical supplies, equipment and personal protective equipment to manage this pandemic.

— PHYSICIANS' LETTER

”



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In Other Words

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The Times

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• 705-286-1288 • Fax 705-286-4768
Published by White Pine Media Corp

Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada

Monday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. - noon
Letters to the Editor must be signed and include phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Email must include name and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.
All Subscriptions: \$46/ per year or \$88 for 2 years
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In this together

WE'RE ALL in this together. It's a mantra that has been repeated around the world, around the country, around the province, around the county, around our towns as our world encounters the spread of COVID-19, a virus which can make any of us feel awful and poses exceptional risk to our most vulnerable and to the stability of our health-care system.

It might not feel as though we're all in this together, because we're staying apart. It might feel isolating. It might exacerbate anxiety. It might make us feel helpless and inconvenienced and either busier or bored than we would like to be.

But as it always does in times of joy or sorrow, the community is pulling together. While you might be at home, not having seen friends and families or seeing the familiar faces in passing that make living in a small town so charming, community members have been learning technology, organizing and sharing both live and pre-recorded videos online to keep us connected.

Meghan Reid of Just Movement Fitness has been broadcasting exercise videos from her living room to keep us moving. Nancy Therrien, Jaime Bilodeau – alongside little Holly Carpenter – and Rob Muir have been broadcasting Haliburton County Public Library storytimes into our homes from their own homes. Brent Coltman – who you can read about in next week's *Minden Times* – started a Facebook page called Music From Home that quickly gathered more than 1,800 people, many of them local, in one place to share songs with each other

even when in different places.

Being apart means parents and teachers will be working closer than they ever have before, to ensure the education of our children is not drastically interrupted during a time that can be frightening for our youngest community members.

Archie Stouffer Elementary School has been calling students to action to help from wherever they are, decorating windows with heart decorations for frontline workers, or being sure to call someone who might feel alone. We're all learning, together, sometimes as we go, to adapt, be more patient and get creative about how we work, shop, and help and celebrate each other from a distance.

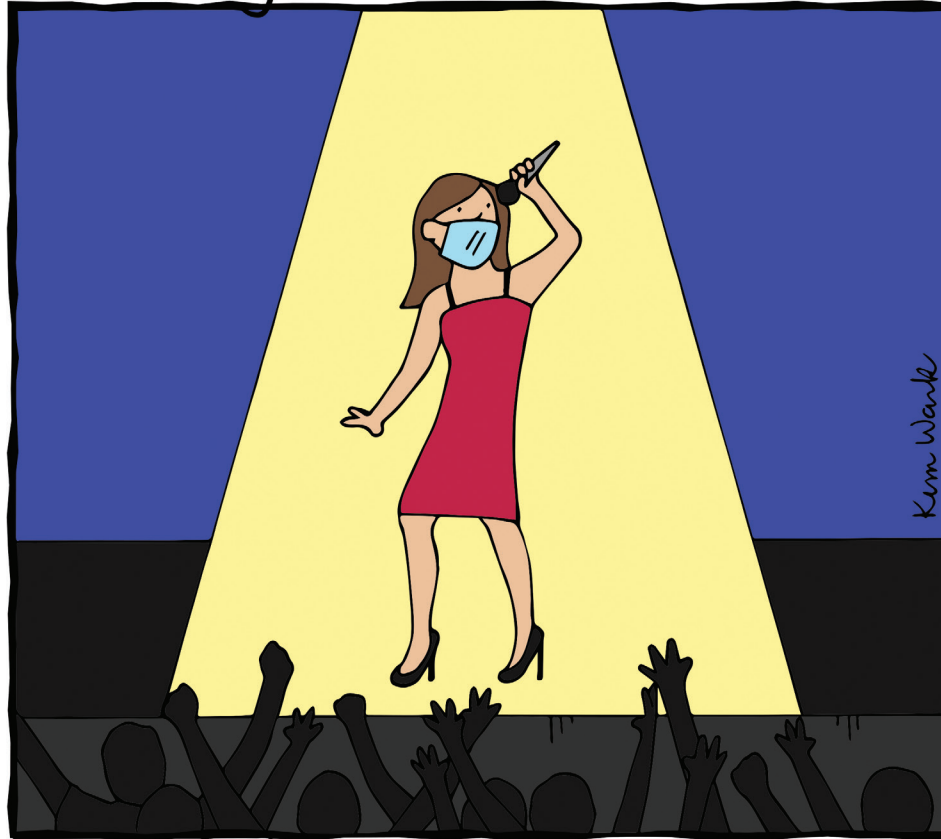
And even while apart, we are helping and celebrating each other. Staying home means the people in our community who are still going to work to keep us safe and supported – doctors, nurses,

SUE TIFFIN
Reporter

first responders, pharmacy staff, public health officials, other health-care professionals, grocery store staff, local government officials, volunteers, cleaning and janitorial staff, food suppliers, restaurant staff, bank employees and those working in the transportation industry – will be safer, with less exposure to the public.

Remember this when you feel at your most lonely: we're all in this together. We're all feeling the stress, the worry, the anticipatory grief. And one day, when we're physically together again, we will all remember how we had to be apart to get through it together, and we'll be closer than ever before.

Kwarky



The Masked Singer

Conspiracy theory

WITH ALL THE disruption and uncertainty in the world right now, it's easy to forget that good times lie ahead of us. I got a head start on mine on Sunday, when I received a call from a man who told me the words every upland bird hunter longs to hear.

He said, "I just wanted to tell you that I can now offer you a puppy ready for pickup in mid-May."

Up until then, I thought the phrase, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help," was one of those phrases that people say when they want to make you laugh. But in this case, those words turned out to be completely true. I can honestly disclose I'm getting the pup because of our federal government.

Permit me to explain.

I had put my money down in the fall for a new springer spaniel from that breeding and was number six on the list. Unfortunately, the universe has a sense of humour, so only five pups were born in that litter.

So about two weeks ago, the breeder called to tell me that I would be first in line for the next litter which would be born around July. This was great, but it also meant I would not have a springer spaniel to hunt with this fall, which was a little disappointing.

Luckily, the federal government intervened.

Now, I'm not one who typically falls for conspiracy theories, but I will say that this sounds awful suspicious.

You see, the federal government closed the borders just about a day or two after I called a friend on an unsecured line to say I wasn't getting a dog from that litter.

What does closing the borders have to do with this?

Well, the fellow ahead of me in the litter line up was an American – and I'm going to assume shadowy figures in our government knew this. So, I figure the government secret agency he works for was monitoring my call and realized that if Steve Galea doesn't get a hunting dog, the Canadian economy would take an even worse downturn.

Call me paranoid, but I suspect their intelligence analysis quickly revealed that a new hunting dog requires veterinary visits, new collars, a new crate, a mat, blanket, slip lead, regular lead, several training dummies, starter pistol, blanks, a dummy launcher, expensive dog food, training videos, electronic collars, a new shotgun, several boxes of ammunition, new upland pants, vest and boots, and lots of gasoline so I can take it to distant covers as well as socialize it. And let's not forget treats for a good day's work. Don't worry; I'll get snacks for the pup too.

I believe this startling realization – that those expenditures would be lost to the Canadian economy until July – are what prompted the federal government to close the border so that the American fellow ahead of me could not visit and got bumped off the puppy list. Which meant I was placed back on it.

Basically, it was one of those "crisis averted" scenarios that, if the internet is right, shadowy government agencies deal with every day.

Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. I promise I will do my part.

In the meantime, I'm going to call my friend on an unsecured line to complain about how I probably won't be fly fishing much if my favourite brook trout lake isn't stocked with bigger fish soon....

I expect results by spring.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Young people and the plague

SO MANY THINGS to think about during this time of plague. So many people to be concerned, even anxious, about.

The infirm. The older people with weakened immune systems. People now without work and stable incomes, the homeless on our streets, the homeless in Third World refugee camps, the homeless jammed into First World holding pens because they crossed a border into lands where they are not wanted.

Then there are the essential workers in warehouses and grocery and drug depots moving the supply line of essentials we need to stay alive. The police officers and other first responders at risk while keeping us all safe. And, of course, the medical professionals whose lives are at risk every day be-

cause of governments that lacked foresight, despite knowing a plague like this was overdue.

We also need to think about young people and how we might help them cope with this traumatic time in their lives. The pre-teens, the teens and the young adults in the process of forming the identities and values that will be with them the rest of their lives.

This is an especially traumatic time for them because the coronavirus pandemic has blocked them from important rites-of-passage events such as proms, graduation ceremonies, and deciding visits

to university campuses where they hope to continue their education.

Adolescents often are challenging to understand and to deal with because they are undergoing hormonal, physical and mental developments. They live in a state of restlessness that generally is restrained by schooling, sports, music and other activities with their friends.

Now there is no school, no organized sports and no social gatherings with friends, which are so important to adolescent life. And, perhaps no summer jobs.

Isolation is something that no adolescent wants. It is understandable that they might feel deprived and act rebellious.

I feel for these young people, and for their parents trying to help them understand and cope. I can't offer much to the young people in my life, except to share an experience from my childhood.

As a child I often wondered why my mother walked with a slight limp. I found out why during another time when the country was gripped by fear of another disease.

Between the late 1940s and early 1950s, an estimated 11,000 Canadians were left paralyzed during a polio outbreak that became the most serious national epidemic since the 1918 influenza pandemic.

People were urged to stay away from crowds to avoid spreading the disease. That meant staying away from the most important summer event in the life of any kid in Port Arthur-Fort William, now Thunder Bay.

That event was the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition, the annual fair offering rides, games, shows – all sorts of exciting sights, sounds and smells.

I whined to my mother about her refusal to take me to the Ex. It was a mean decision. How stupid to deprive me of a once-a-year event just because of some silly thing you couldn't even see. How could it hurt to go to the Ex?

My mother, no doubt tired my whining, had enough. She lifted her skirt to reveal a shrivelled left leg and said: "you can't go to the Ex because I don't want you to get sick like I did."

I later learned that my mother was stricken as a child by polio in 1921, the same year Franklin D. Roosevelt caught what was believed to be polio and lost the use of his legs. She was paralyzed and spent years relearning how to walk, with crutches, then a leg brace.

I did not get to go to the Ex. Some other kids did, and some kids caught polio, although no one knows if they caught it in the Ex crowds or somewhere else. If I remember correctly, one kid in our neighbourhood died.

My mother probably did not know the term "social distancing," but she did know that staying away from other people during outbreaks of disease was critical to protecting her children.

It was tough on her trying to get me to understand. It is tough on today's parents trying to have their children understand that they must accept very difficult sacrifices.

Clear communication, understanding and sacrifice are what will get us through this.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

letters to the editor

Abide by speed limit

To the Editor,

How many people in Minden and surrounding area could tell me what the speed limit is on Hwy. 35 in front of the Roodenburg home?

Well, folks, the speed limit is 70 km/h. The speed limit changes at the south end of our property.

Then, there is the issue of cars and trucks, with enhanced mufflers, going by our home at faster

than 70 km/h. Oh, I remember what fun it was to drive down the street in such a car or truck – the cool Fonzie way! Now, however, our ears are not as accepting of noises that loud. Even in the winter with the doors and windows closed, we can still hear the noise of these loud mufflers. Bill and I would ask these drivers to adhere to the posted speed limit by our home.

Bill and Sybil Roodenburg

Find calm

I AM NOT A fan of getting stuck in traffic. Specifically, the bumper-to-bumper type that has you inching forward at a rate slower than any sloth I've seen on a YouTube video. One time when I was caught in that type of traffic when this car pulled in front of me. Foolish person thought that the lane I was in was moving faster than the one that they came from. When I stopped swearing under my breath, I realized I was experiencing one of those "blessing in disguise" kind of moments.

Their licence plate read: Be Calm (but a different spelling). I hope you'll believe me when I say I was actually calmer for the rest of the hour-long-er-than-it-needed-to-be trip home. Every time I'd squirm in the seat or try to look for an escape from the long line-up of red lights ahead of me I'd come back to that licence plate. I'd see "be calm" and my mind would go through a series of thoughts like:

- I can't do anything about the decision I made to leave when I did;
- I can't make these other cars go any faster;
- I can put on some fun music; and,
- I can think about how fortunate I am to have a car to drive, and a full tank of gas at this very moment.

COVID-19 is our worldwide traffic jam. There is no way of avoiding what is happening or worrying about how long it will last and the subsequent ramifications to life as we once knew it. It should not be ignored. However, giving it more attention than it deserves is messing with our mental and physical health. I do look at social media (more times a day than I care to admit) and I'm noticing a bit of a shift to discussions around the "what ifs" in this situation. People are expressing their concerns. They have every right to, but we have the right not to read or listen to their posts. If we focus on the problem all that we will see is

the problem. If we step back, we get more perspective.

Finding calm moments in this storm isn't that hard. Sometimes it does take some creativity. Easy choices are limiting time on social media, watching the news or having discussions that are COVID-19 focused.

One of my clients was told by her husband that he would only listen to her coronavirus concerns for 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the evening. I love this idea.

The other way to find calm is to put yourself in situations that ground you.

Meditation is an obvious one but it's not great if you have a brain that works a mile-a-minute. If this is you, this really is not the time to give meditating a try. There are other things that can work like:

- Put on your favourite music and sing or dance or dance and sing.
- Get outside and take a deep breath of fresh air. If there is

a tree nearby, put your hand on it and pay attention to what you're feeling. If you want to go all out, hug the tree. I swear there is nothing more grounding.

- If you're wearing socks or shoes right now kick them off. Wiggle your toes. Walk on surfaces you don't normally walk on and feel every sensation you can. Or, put some water in the bathtub and stand in it. Make it really cold if you need a jolt of reality.
- Light a candle and stare at the flame.

Watch it dance and flicker. Let yourself get lost in its energy.

All of these ideas put us right in the "now." There is no other moment than right now. It's all that we have and it's a calm place to be.

Something to think about.

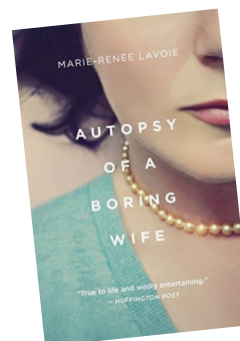
Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness

Book of the Month - April



Autopsy of a Boring Wife by Marie-Renée Lavoie, Arielle Aaronson

Like a Québécois *Bridget Jones's Diary*, Marie-Renée Lavoie's *Autopsy of a Boring Wife* tells the hysterically funny and ultimately touching tale of 48-year-old Diane, a woman whose husband leaves her and is having an affair because, he says, she bores him. Diane takes the charge to heart and undertakes an often ribald, highly entertaining journey to restoring trust in herself and others that is often an astute commentary on women and girls, gender differences, and the curious institution of marriage in the 21st century. All the details are up for scrutiny in this tender, brisk story of the path to recovery. *Autopsy of a Boring Wife* is a fresh and engaging novel of the pitfalls and missteps of an apparently "boring" life

that could be any of ours. It is a 2020 Evergreen nominee, and available to reserve from Haliburton County Public Library.

No current threat of severe flooding

The Gull River in Minden on the afternoon of March 31. There is currently little threat of severe flooding in the county this spring. /CHAD INGRAM Staff



by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

At press time, water levels throughout the Gull and Burnt River watersheds appeared to present no threat of serious flooding.

County politicians had their first spring freshet conference call of the season with representatives of the Trent Severn Waterway on Monday, those calls occurring regularly throughout the spring thaw.

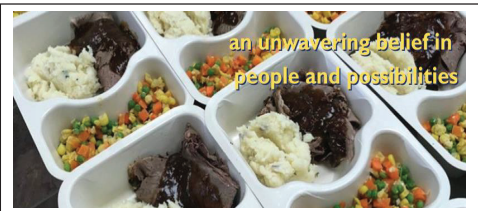
“According to TSW staff, the spring water activity is earlier than usual, but despite the recent rain and the remaining snowpack, things are in good shape,” said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt. “The lack of rain means a gradual inflow into the system and snowpack monitoring will continue to inform the inflows. Certain pinch points like Twelve Mile and Horseshoe [lakes] are active at the moment as adjustments are made for capacity, but there are no concerns at the moment.”

There are nearly 30 feeder and flow-through lakes throughout Haliburton County that are part of the feeder system for the Trent Severn Canal, water levels adjusted through a series of dams. The water from those lakes drains through the channel of the Gull River through downtown Minden, before making its way down the system. The lakes in the county were at about 55 per cent of capacity as of Monday, Moffatt said.

The MNRF’s Bancroft District, which includes Haliburton County, is under what the ministry calls a water safety statement. This “indicates that high flows, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for such users as boaters, anglers and swimmers but flooding is not expected.”

A press release from the Township of Minden Hills regarding the spring thaw reminds residents to be vigilant and monitor their properties throughout the coming weeks. Tips residents in flood-prone areas can keep in mind to protect their properties include installing and checking sump pumps; moving any important materials or documents out of basements; installing backflow valves or standpipes to prevent sewer lines from backing up; elevating appliances such as washers, dryers and water heaters on concrete blocks or anchoring them and protecting them with a flood shield; and having a flood detection device installed in their basement.

“The public is reminded to use caution around area lakes, rivers, creeks and other water sources such as ditches, as high water levels and swift currents can create unstable conditions,” the release reads. “Avoid driving on any roadways that are underwater, as road conditions may be unstable and dangerous.”



Will You Help Us Help Others?

Like Sirdike SIRCH, you are concerned about your neighbours in Haliburton County.

You want to help those most affected by lay-offs, social distancing, self-quarantine and loss of financial security, but it's risky to do practical things and you're not sure where to start.

SIRCH has a simple way you can have an immediate impact on those who need help in Haliburton County during the COVID-19 crisis.

Up until now, SIRCH has been making 400 meals per month and distributing them free through food banks, Ontario Works and other organizations in Haliburton County.

Now with the coronavirus, the demand for healthy, prepared meals has drastically increased.

Why?

- Hundreds of people have suddenly been laid off
- One-third of our residents are seniors
- Haliburton already has a 23% child poverty rate
- We have the second highest cost of living in Ontario
- Many will not be eligible for EI or other benefits.

Prepared meals are essential for those with disabilities, anxiety, lack of cooking skills or resources, and for those who are ill, homeless and elderly.

The food banks will do their best, but for many families this may not meet the need in this increasingly urgent situation.

During the pandemic and until our community is back on its feet, our goal is to increase the number of prepared meals from 400 to 1,400 meals each month.

We can do it, but we need your help.

SIRCH has no base funding for this free food program – it relies on donations from individuals, organizations, churches and businesses.

It costs SIRCH about \$4 to make one healthy meal. Each comes with heating instructions and a nutritional label. Some meals are suitable for diabetics or others with special diets. Local produce is used whenever possible and groceries are purchased locally.

Please help keep Haliburton County fed.

With your help, SIRCH can meet the Covid-19 challenge: \$5,600/month for 6 months is needed.

Donate what you can:

VISA or Master Card – give monthly or one-time. Call in with your card: 705-457-1742
Online (go to our website www.sirch.on.ca)
Via e-transfer (stacy_mclean@sirch.on.ca – send password in a separate email)
By cheque, which can be mailed to SIRCH Community Services, Box 687, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

We can get through this.

In the end, we will be a stronger community if we band together and look after each other.

*Sometimes our light goes out, but is blown again into instant flame
by an encounter with another human being.*

- Albert Schweitzer



Jennifer Martin and Casey from Walkabout Farm take to Minden Dairy Queen drive-thru for an ice cream cone treat. /KAREN LONDON Staff

Results should be known within 72 hours

from page 1

The clinic will be operating from noon to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday and provide assessments in 30-minute intervals. Patients will drive their vehicle from County Road 21 into the high school parking lot where paramedics confirm patient appointments and that a self-assessment has been completed, then on to the medical centre parking lot where health professionals conduct the drive-thru assessment.

The COVID-19 self-assessment can be found at covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment.

Dr. Bottum said a review of the patient's history will be done, oxygen levels and temperature will be taken. The patient may be asked to go home and self-isolate or they may be asked to go to the hospital for further assessment and chest X-ray. Swabs may be taken, but not everyone will have one done.

"It's not the most comfortable thing in the world, but it's not overly painful, it just tickles the hell out of your nose," he said, referring to the COVID-19 swab being inserted high into the nasal cavity. "The immediate response is to pull your head back."

They also have throat swabs, which may be used.

He believes results from the test will be known within 72 hours.

Anyone with severe symptoms should call 911 and let the dispatcher know about the potential for COVID-19.

Setting up the assessment centre outdoors helps reduce the risk that the virus will spread.

Not everyone is being tested for the coronavirus in part because of processing capacity of Public Health Ontario and in part because of the availability of test kits.

"Basically at this point, only the patients that are the most unwell or at highest risk are going to be swabbed, but hopefully we will liberalize that over the next couple weeks," Dr. Bottum said.

He wasn't sure about how many testing swabs were available, but said for now they can do up to 12 in an afternoon at the centre to ensure they aren't depleting the hospital of its supply.

"Hopefully, again, that capacity will increase. As we have more of a sense of how many people we have to test we may expand the hours of the assessment clinic. It may actually run for the better part of the day. As we get better at it, we may be able to shorten up the appointment times so we can get more people through more quickly," he said.

As more tests become available, the parameters may change to include more people as time goes on.

"If people don't qualify this week for an assessment [they] might actually qualify at the end of the week or next week," he said.

The assessment centre is a step toward returning to life before the pandemic.

"We're sort of moving into the next phase of this. First step is to isolate everybody, keep up your social distancing. Those recommendations are still present, but how are we going to regain our autonomy and start to move around freely if we're suspicious of our neighbours having COVID? As we can sort of isolate positive cases – because that's what this is about, is isolating the people that have tested for COVID – if we do a better job of that then we can [get back to] moving around with more freedom and confidence," he said.

Dr. Bottum said it's likely that Haliburton County will see cases of COVID-19 – there are some tests that are out awaiting results – which is why it's important to practice social distancing: limiting time in public spaces to only essential trips, keeping a two-metre distance from other people, coughing or sneezing into your elbow or a tissue, and washing your hands regularly and thoroughly.

Those who have recently travelled outside Canada, have been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or who are experiencing symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days. Those with symptoms should seek medical attention over the phone from their health provider.

Information about the assessment centre will also soon be added to the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team website: hhfht.com. Telehealth Ontario can be contacted at 1-866-797-0000 and the HKPR Health Unit's number is 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5020.

With files from Jenn Watt



A health-care worker is seen at the newly opened COVID-19 assessment centre's tent on Tuesday, March 31 at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre. The centre is open 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday and is only accepting patients by appointment./DARREN LUM Staff

Ministry releases expectations for students

from page 1

by Education Minister Stephen Lecce in the second phase of Learn at Home. Those in kindergarten to Grade 3 will be asked to do five hours of work per student per week; Grade 4-6 to do five hours; Grade 7-8 to do 10 hours; and Grade 9-12 to do three hours per course per week.

Final report cards will be issued for all students.

Tuesday's announcement stated that laptops and other devices would be distributed from schools as needed and that they would identify alternative forms of student-teacher connectivity including digital, phone and mail.

"We will do whatever it takes to keep students safe from COVID-19 – which is why we have extended the school closure period and why we have unveiled a teacher-led program that keeps students learning while at home," Lecce said. "By providing clarity for parents, enhancing support for students and enabling the teacher-student relationship, we are ensuring our children continue to safely learn – providing some sense of stability and hope for them amid this difficulty."

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COVID-19

Coronavirus

Online fitness training benefits students and teachers

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Fitness class was like any other except for one electronic twist. Instead of everyone coming to the Minden studio to see Meghan Reid of Just Movement Fitness, several of her students went online, watching her on their computers as they curled soup cans in their dining rooms using Zoom Cloud Meeting app, an online video conferencing program.

This is the current reality facing many people looking to get a sweat on, as more and more actions restrict movement to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Reid, who started her online classes a little more than a week ago, said she wanted to continue to offer her classes and encourage social distancing.

"I can't, in good conscience, open my studio to the people of our community when this is a place for people to feel safe, healthy and fit. I have a lot of clients who depend on our space for their well being, including senior clients that are at higher risk should we have a community outbreak... It's my role to make sure we keep our space safe for everyone in the future. This is what prompted me to attempt offering my training online – for them to continue to stay active and healthy, but from the security of their own home," she wrote in an email.

She said there has been a learning curve



Minden resident Darby Bayly works out in her dining room with Meghan Reid, a local fitness trainer who is offering her classes online through her computer due to social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic. /DARREN LUM Staff

due to her lack of expertise in online instruction and audio/video equipment.

"I've never broadcasted online before, so for now, I'm hoping that my good 'ol [Mac computer] will do the trick to get us through this time frame until I'm able to acquire the proper tools to stay online for people wishing to use my services from home," she wrote.

Although she didn't have any intention of offering classes beyond her current clientele, she has been receiving interest after posting to social media about going online from fam-

ily and friends. It's given her motivation to expand her service. Go to Just Movement Fitness's Facebook page, text or call 705-455-7270, or go to www.justmovementfitness.com for details.

Online training is not just good for people interested in staying fit during this time of isolation, but also for fitness trainers interested in a new life.

Point for Fitness's Laurie Sweig, who is a fitness trainer and *Times* columnist, has been giving instruction online to her clients for

three years and started because she wanted to be able to move to the Haliburton Highlands.

Sweig said she closed her fitness studio located in Ottawa and started the transition to offering online services back in December 2016. All of her workout sessions with clients are online.

With more people working from home due to physical distancing rules to reduce the spread of coronavirus, Sweig has noticed that clients are discovering additional benefits of online workouts.

"They had already loved the fact that they could workout in their home, cottages, etc. Now, for some, in addition to being a workout, it's social connection in a somewhat boring day," she wrote in an email. "Conversations are about keeping safe and healthy during this time. All are grateful for not experiencing an interruption to their workout schedule."

Safety of clients working out, internet connectivity, and offering substitute sessions if someone misses one, are some of the challenges teaching online presents.

Sweig adds all the sessions she performs are one-on-one or limited to one household with couples or parents with children.

"So far there have been a couple of existing clients adding another workout to their schedule. I made the choice not to increase marketing for the online service during this time. I believe people will find their way to me if/when they need to," she wrote.

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- Be prepared, but avoid panic stocking.
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- Clean high-touch surfaces regularly.
- Order your prescription medication.
- Practice cough and sneeze etiquette in transit.

If you have symptoms, take the self-assessment at ontario.ca/coronavirus. Or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 (TTY: 1-866-797-0007) or your public health unit.

Eleanor Higgins stands in front of the Eagle Lake Country Market after decorating the storefront with hearts for frontline workers. Higgins, along with her brother Quinn, challenged fellow ASES students to decorate their windows with hearts to help encourage those in the community facing the coronavirus challenge head on. /Submitted



Ted Cumber shared this photo of Emma from Gooderham, saying she and her family “wanted to thank all the front line people who are sacrificing their own health to get us through these troubling times, the nurses, doctors, [personal support workers] and those who support these professionals. The drivers delivering, those who support the people in need in the stores, the volunteers watching out for others.”

ASES supports frontline workers

Archie Stouffer Elementary School started the week with a challenge to the school community set forth by Quinn and Eleanor Higgins: create a display of hearts in windows at home and workplaces throughout the area to help honour what the school’s social media page described as “all of the members

of our community who continue to be at work supporting us. We appreciate the nurses, doctors, PSWs, shelter workers, truck drivers, grocery and essential store workers, police officers, paramedics, prison guards and the countless others who leave their homes every day during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Posts on the original announcement show students and teachers participating as well as the county offices and Eagle Lake Country Market, which was decorated by Eleanor herself, with help from staff.

Erinn Lynch, mom to Quinn and Eleanor, said she got the idea from the Caremongers Haliburton Facebook group, where Ted Cumber had posted about the idea, which started with Emma in Gooderham.

“We wanted to be able to contribute in some way and let all our friends who are frontline workers (especially nurses) know that we are thinking of them, that we sup-

port them, that they are not alone and how grateful we are,” said Lynch. “I also thought it would be empowering for the kids and our school to contribute their art and help them feel like their voices and place in our community are important, while supporting the community at large as we all come together while staying apart.” While some kids painted their windows, others created hearts out of construction paper, and signs of encouragement. “We live in a special place,” said Lynch. “Everyone is important. And ultimately we are all in this together.”

Sue Tiffin, Staff

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3								6
	7					2	5	

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Answers on page 14

Fun By The Numbers

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Staying in to stay well

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Marilyn Bagshaw lists what she and husband Tom have been doing in the past two weeks of isolation at home: defrosted the freezer, put summer lights on the deck, cleaned the top of a closet out, discarded 20 years of old income tax papers, transplanted some plants.

"Can you think of anything else?" she calls out to Tom, while speaking of her experience over the phone.

"Try not to get in too many fights!" Tom yells back good-naturedly.

"Yeah, we try not to get in too many arguments," laughs Marilyn, noting they've been married 52 years this fall.

The Minden couple have mostly stayed in their home for almost three weeks at the time this story will go to press, heeding news reports and public health recommendations to stay home to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"We self-isolated ourselves because Tom's diabetic and has COPD," said Marilyn. "He's got to definitely not be around this kind of stuff, that virus. And anyway, it doesn't matter, I don't want it either, let's just face it."

Marilyn said the couple have stayed in: "for health's sake. For the sake of ourselves, for the sake of our kids, our grandchildren." Their kids and grandchildren have also been staying at home and practicing social and physical distancing.

"We wash our hands all the time," she said. "We're just trying to be really, really careful, for health's sake. We don't want to be sick, and we don't want to cause somebody else to be sick because of us."

They watch movies, make homemade soup and spaghetti sauce, get spring cleaning done, keep up with the news – just enough to feel informed and not overwhelmed, said Marilyn – socialize on the phone or through Facebook, and chat with their cat.

"There's things you can do, you just have to try and find them," she said. "You have to kind of be innovative, I guess. And we're trying to be."

And if the walls start to feel as though they're closing in, Marilyn said the couple head to the car and go for a drive, sometimes up to two hours, with Tom covering debit card keypads and handles on gas tanks to keep his hands clean. They've been to West Guilford, through Haliburton, through Blairhampton, reading names on mailboxes and taking in spots in their family's – and their own – history: their grandchildren are the sixth generation here.

"We'll do something if we feel like we are locked in type of thing," said Marilyn. "You know, you go out on your deck or you get in your car for an hour and a half. You look at things you saw a million times, but you drive. You put your radio on, you drive."

The pair have been ordering supplies online and picking up through contactless delivery – when supplies are placed in one area by one person and picked up by another.

"You can order the stuff from the [grocery store], they bring it out to you," she said. "You can order your drugs from the Minden drug store, they hand them to you in a bag outside, you don't ever make contact with anybody ... When I was there, there was nobody else standing there. I waited until there was nobody there, and then I got out. I tapped my debit card to the glass. [The clerk] handed them out the door, I waited until she shut the door, I walked right up to the door, got my stuff, and that's it. No contact. It wasn't putting them at risk either."

Working at home on projects to stay busy has required additional supplies at times, but Marilyn said so far they've found a way around being in public, making porch pickups and drop-offs, even if they've had to say no to hugs from their grandkids in order to protect each other.

"Tom needed drywall screws," she said. "Well, you kind of forget, you know, Tom said, I wonder, should I just slip in and get them, you forget, you know what I mean? And then, no, no, you can't get drywall screws. So our son had some, so he put them in a jar, and set them out on his deck and we got them there."

Though typically a social couple, Marilyn said it hasn't been difficult to stay home.

"Our church is cancelled, you know, everything's cancelled," she said. "There's nowhere to go really anyway, but even if there was, I wouldn't be going."

Seeing parking lots filled with cars has been discouraging, but Marilyn said for the most part they don't see people in many places, while the community tries to stay in.

"That's all you can do, you can just try to do the very best you can do," she said.



Marilyn and Tom Bagshaw are sheltering in place to help protect themselves, their family and their community but said they have been keeping busy at home. /Submitted



Lisa Reinwald and son Wyatt Raposo are getting into a new routine while sheltering in place at home in Minden. / Submitted

'This is my new normal': finding routine without work

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Lisa Reinwald is experiencing her first time without a job in almost 30 years.

From the time she was a young teenager, she had found work through babysitting, housekeeping, jobs at the arena snack bar and Jug City, even working through college until landing at Patient News for the past two decades. As businesses throughout Ontario have laid employees off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, like many in the province, Reinwald found herself with time on her hands.

"It was definitely a mind shift, totally," she said. "Even when you have holidays, you always think it would be great to have some time off, but when you have holidays you know that everything is going to return back to normal when you go back to work, your routine is going to start back up. Even when you are on your holidays, you may not keep your routines, but when you go back to work everything is going to go back to normal. But now it's like, I don't know when my normal is going to start again. This is my new normal."

For Reinwald, she said settling into a new routine is an ongoing process.

"We're still trying to figure that out," she said, of what her days look like as she stays at home with son Wyatt Raposo, a Grade 7 student who is also home following the closure of schools throughout the province.

"For me, I had a couple of days of self-loathing and self-pity or whatever, and then I said, OK, this can't continue," she said. "So now, my thing is to not sleep in past eight o'clock, because Lord knows I could sleep in until noon, probably."

Reinwald gets up and does some form of

exercise, often with a group that focuses on health and wellness connecting live on Facebook.

"[Then] we usually take the dog out for a walk," said Reinwald. "This is totally new for her too because normally she's home by herself all day, so she's lost."

She and Wyatt have lunch together, and then relax in the afternoon, sometimes watching a movie. She said they're going to start using some of the online education tools the government has published since the school closures, and might try some crafts.

"Whatever you can fill the day with," she said. "It's just a new routine, right, it's one of those things that it's going to take a few days ... Because it's becoming your new norm, I think for my own mental state, I need some routine, and I need to get off the couch, and even, I have three phone appointments with friends after dinner, because we're all starting to feel it. We're all in this together."

Reinwald also connects with friends via text throughout the day, occasionally sharing recipes. But though she has always loved to be alone and enjoy her downtime, she has found self-isolation to be challenging.

"I need some normalcy in my life now," she said. "I was excited about spending all this time with Wyatt, getting to do all the art projects I've never had time to do, but then Tuesday hit, it was my first day of officially being laid off, and I was like ... I was sad, I was happy, I was everything all in one day. I didn't even know what to do with myself. For the first time in my life, I wanted to go to work."

The allure of having downtime and not needing to head to work wore off quickly.

"When you're not forced to have it, you want it," she said. "When you're forced to have it, and for consecutive days, it's like, well, this is kind of boring."

Delivery available of essentials for those living in Dorset

DORSET NEWS

Lee Ross
burgesslt@me.com

Robinson's General Store in cooperation with the Dorset Lions Club and Pharmasave are now offering shopping and delivery services to vulnerable and self-isolating customers. If you are a senior or your health is vulnerable in any way, the service can ensure

that you stay safe at home and avoid exposure to the virus. For those in isolation, your essentials can be delivered so you can keep comfortable until you are able to come out again. These wonderful businesses are working together to support the community in staying as safe as possible during the current crisis. For more information or to access the service, please call Robinson's General Store at 705-766-2415 or Dorset Pharmasave at 705-766-1911.

Many new safety precautions have been put in place at various businesses around

Dorset to help keep everyone safe. If you do need to be out, please make sure you read all signage and follow all the rules. While this may seem a little extreme at times, social distancing could very well mean the difference between staying healthy and getting sick. If we all take every precaution possible and look out for one another, we will get through this.

For a lot of us being stuck at home means you're consuming more food and making more garbage. Remember to keep in mind while you are home that some landfills are

currently not open and some are limiting what you're allowed to dump. Check your local township's website for more information on what you can dump and for updated hours. Storing garbage outside is never a good idea as bears are starting to come out of hibernation and are looking for food.

Happy birthday to Evan Coombs, Adam Jones, Karla MacKay, Emily King, Laura Flynn, Rick Morris, Connor Crewson and Jean MacInnis. For birthdays and submissions please send them to burgesslt@me.com.

‘What is one night for me to sleep in my car?’

Fundraiser brings awareness of homelessness

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

For all the rugged outdoor beauty of the Highlands, there is a challenging reality that faces many in this area: homelessness.

The second Sleeping in Cars event – in which participants collect pledges and sleep in their vehicle overnight, mimicking what some have to do for shelter in the area – was officially cancelled this year due to efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Despite the cancellation, the event went ahead for three individuals, who slept in vehicles this past Friday helping to raise \$2,347 for the non-profit Places for People, which works to secure affordable rental housing in Haliburton County for those at risk of homelessness, and supports its tenants to make a positive difference in their lives.

Last year’s event, which was held in township parking lots in Minden, Haliburton and Wilberforce, not only raised \$6,000 for Places for People, but it also raised awareness of housing shortages

Carnarvon’s Kim Switzer is not just an outspoken advocate for Places for People, but is a beneficiary of the organization’s effort, as a resident at the duplex owned by the organization.

Her experience makes it easy to spend the night in her truck with her 10-year-old daughter Hailey for the fundraiser.

“I’ve been without a home myself and I’ve been blessed to have this [residence]. We need more of this in our community,” she said. “What is one night for me to sleep in my car, really? To raise awareness and kind of spread the word and to help get a bit of money fundraised ... I couldn’t do this and I couldn’t do what I’m doing for my children right now if it wasn’t for Places for People,” she said. “I’d love to do more. If everybody did a little bit more ... maybe it wouldn’t be such a huge thing, but there’s too much homelessness and youth without places to go and it’s crazy.”

It’s been two-and-a-half years since she moved into the three-bedroom, two-bathroom unit with a backyard for her children. She continues to be grateful for the opportunity to get her life on track after a divorce left her with nothing.

She’s not sure how it happened, but is glad it did for her and her family.

“I have no idea other than some kind of blessing this place came up. I thought I was going to be bounced over to Fenelon Falls and [have to live in] some little ... rundown apartment type of thing. I had no idea what was going to happen. For whatever reason this place came up. It’s taken me a long time to call it home, but it’s been awesome and I’m truly blessed and I’m truly thankful to have it,” she said.

Life hasn’t been perfect since moving in, but she’s adjusted and made it home.



Hailey Switzer, left, and her mother Kim spent the night in their car during the Sleeping in Cars event, a fundraiser which raises awareness about homelessness and funds for Places for People. Although the official event was cancelled, on March 27, the Switzers, Sylvia Claridge and Val Jarvis slept in their cars at private residences. /DARREN LUM Staff

“Without it I don’t know where I’d be,” she said. Switzer was left with few options several years ago. With a Grade 12 education and being a stay-at-home mother, who home schooled her children for 12 years, Switzer ended up at the YWCA shelter where she lived for several months with her three children, worried for the future, terrified of not having a home.

Having the home has enabled her to work through challenges. The security of a safe place helped her to go back to school, completing courses at Fleming College, obtaining certificates in wilderness and outdoor courses.

“It has allowed me to grow and is still allowing me to grow,” she said.

It led to her forming her own service business two years ago, doing work at residences or at Airbnbs such as landscaping, cleaning, or taking garbage to the landfill.

“It’s really what does somebody need? Do they need a helping hand because I know what it’s like to not have help,” she said.

The other participants were Sylvia Claridge and Val Jarvis, who invited Claridge to join her in her driveway for the evening. Claridge was the top fundraiser for the second consecutive year, having raised \$1,012 for Places for People.

They both knew harrowing stories of young people who didn’t have alternatives to being homeless. One was a teenage boy sleeping in a bank lobby in Haliburton because of a fight with his mother, who he reconciled with later.

Another was a young man in his 20s, who slept in a field in Carnarvon during the winter with the temperatures well below freezing. His only method of protecting himself against the elements was to cover up with a tarp and old coats for warmth, lying on a pallet.

Claridge visited him and tried to help, giving food. His only fear was wolves, she said. He slept with a knife. Sometimes he would seek shelter in cabins so he could eat his canned beans, which would otherwise freeze outside.

Places for People’s vice-president Fay Martin said she was grateful to these people for sleeping in their cars and taking pledges on their own. During this time when the message is to go home, it’s difficult for some people, she said.

“To me, this is a huge thing. We say, ‘Go home. Go home. Go home.’ But what if you don’t have a home, right? What if the home you have is like not a healthy place to be, either socially or physically healthy place to be? Then you’re kind of up the creek without a paddle,” she said. “I think with just the ease with which we say, ‘Go home. Go home. Go home’ as if everybody has one. When we know everybody doesn’t have one ... to me there is that irony. It just doesn’t feel like the right time to kind of go all preachy about that because everyone is so preoccupied with other things.”

She was in favour of people sleeping in cars for the fundraiser as long as it was abiding by the coronavirus safety protocols.

Switzer, who has volunteered to work with high school students, said there are a lot of youth who are “couch hopping” and need places to go and things to do. She wishes there were more affordable accommodations available.

In speaking with people, she said there are some women who stay in abusive relationships to “have a roof over their heads. That’s not good, but where else are they going to go? What else can they afford?”

She wishes people unfamiliar with what challenges youth face, whether it’s a home life that isn’t stable due to a lack of finances or abuse they face, would open their eyes.

“Maybe we don’t see the stuff like we see in Toronto where there’s sleeping bags on the side of the road, but who’s to say that isn’t happening in some places. Maybe we don’t know too much about it all?” she said.

If interested in donating, see www.placesforpeople.ca.



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Haliburton Community Housing Corporation

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) operates two non-profit housing projects in the Village of Haliburton, Ontario

JOB SUMMARY

The Housing Manager reports directly to the HCHC Board of Directors and oversees all day-to-day operations at Parklane Apartments and Echo Hills Apartments in compliance with federal, provincial and municipal legislation, ensuring that all operations are conducted in timely and cost-effective ways. The Manager maintains positive relationships with tenants, staff, vendors and the Board of Directors.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Knowledge of the Housing Services Act and regulations, Residential Tenancies Act and regulations, social housing programs, other legislation pertinent to operating residential properties
- At least 5 years of supervisory experience
- Strong communication, interpersonal, multitasking and conflict resolution skills
- Compassion and empathy skills suitable for a social housing environment
- Effective budgeting, analytical, administrative and organizational skills
- Proficient computer skills, including MS Word, Excel, Outlook, HM Worx
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Possesses a valid driver's licence and vehicle with insurance
- The successful candidate will be required to obtain a clean Vulnerable Sector Check prior to being confirmed for the position

This is a full-time salaried position with an expectation that while the work can be generally completed Monday to Friday at 40 hours a week, there will be times after hours and weekend work are expected without payment of additional compensation. The start day is negotiable the salary is competitive and commensurate with experience, benefits are included. References will be requested at the interview. Any questions email Glenn Scott at contact information is below.

Resume plus cover letter must be submitted electronically no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 to:

Mr. Glenn Scott, President
Haliburton Community Housing Corporation
Email address: president@haliburtonhousing.com

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Kenneth "Ken" Wilson

(Resident of Haliburton)

Peacefully surrounded by his family at Soldiers' Memorial Hospital in Orillia on Friday afternoon, March 20, 2020 in his 93rd year. Beloved husband of 70 years and best friend of Dorothy Wilson (nee Playford). Loving father of Paul (Kim), Debbie (Ed McCallum), John (Marilou Mizzan) and Tracey. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Lauren (Chris W.), Adam (Ashley), Jeff (Jessica), Hilary (Ryan), Andrea, Courtney (Monte), Brett (Lauren), Holly (Pablo), Michael (Laura), Ryan (Joanne), Shawn (Alex), Lyndsey, Andy, Carter and by his twenty seven great grandchildren. Predeceased by his brother Donald.

Ken moved to Haliburton in 1962 and worked as Manager of the Bank of Montreal. In 1969, he left the bank after 23 years and became part owner of Haliburton Lumber until he retired in 1989. He had a great love of sports and was an accomplished hockey player and coached for many years. He also enjoyed baseball, fishing and hunting.

Ken was a very generous volunteer and served many years on the Haliburton Hospital Board and the Haliburton County Development Corporation. He was Past President of the Haliburton Rotary Club and served as Treasurer of Haliburton United Church, and local chapters of Victorian Order Of Nurses (VON) and the Salvation Army.

Visitation, Celebration Of Life & Reception
A Celebration of Ken's life will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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This Week:

Mark Barrett

Next Week: The Strollers

Wednesday, March 23, 1983

County budget tops million mark

The Haliburton County budget has surpassed the million dollar mark. The budget of \$1,061,880 was endorsed at the March 16 meeting of county council. Last year's budget at the county level was just shy of the million dollar mark at \$981,600.

While the county councillors have agreed to spend over a million dollars in 1983, not all of that will be coming directly from the municipal taxpayer's pockets. A 20% portion of that amount, some

\$200,000 will be received through grants from the province, and revenue earned through fees charged for land division hearings, the rental for the land registry office, and several other sources of income. This means that the municipalities will have to provide \$863,000 to support the county's activities.

The chairman of the management committee, Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey, who introduced the budget and explained the highlights from the document

noted that one of the major increases this year was a \$15,000 reserve fund which has been established to cover accumulated sick leave of county employees and to be used as working funds. Fearrey said the budget committee was concerned about the number of sick leave days being accumulated by the employees. He said that problems could arise if a number of long term employees, with many sick day credits, decided to retire. Under the provisions of the

agreement with its employees, the county must reimburse employees for a certain number of unused sick days when they leave the employ of the county.

Under the program devised by the committee, \$15,000 will be set aside during the next three years to bring the fund up to \$45,000 by 1985. Fearrey suggested the \$15,000 per year was not too sizeable an amount to set aside in this year of restraints.

Fearrey told the meeting the committee has recommended that the special fund be "protected" from being used for other purposes by enacting a by-law outlining its purpose. He noted this would leave the incoming county council, in December 1985, with a fund of \$45,000 to cover any major requests made on the sick leave fund.

Chamber gets \$60,000

With the controversial comments made by Anson, Hindon and Minden councillor Gary Kenney concerning the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce still fresh in their minds, the members of the council agreed to give the organization an additional \$10,000 in funding in 1983. The Chamber's budget allotment has been raised from \$50,000 to \$60,000. As well, \$500 has been set aside for the operation of the information booth in Cardiff Township.

Last year the Haliburton Economic Development Commission had received separate funding from the county. This year, the responsibilities of the organization have been reduced and its administration will be handled through the Chamber's budget.

Addressing the council seriously, Fearrey said the \$60,000 allotment to the Chamber amounts to about one dollar per household in the county. Fearrey said he felt this amount would be judged to be reasonable, "even to those among us who have an insatiable thirst to be anti-Chamber."

The councillors were told that members of the committee had discussed the issue of the Chamber funding extensively during the committee meeting. Members include Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Lyle McKnight, Monmouth Reeve Keith Tallman and Warden Bill Howe, as well as chairman Murray Fearrey.

The county's representative on the Chamber of Commerce, Stanhope Deputy Reeve Elgin Stouffer, was also included in the discussion.

Fearrey seemed upset with suggestions in the Kenney report that the county "lacked responsibility" in overseeing the funds it grants to the Chamber. He noted that the Chamber provides the county with two detailed reports on its activities each year and that monthly reports are offered by the council's representative, Elgin Stouffer.

Major categories

In presenting the budget for 1983, the figures were divided into seven major sections, each related to a particular area of service provided by the county.

The largest budget section was the roads budget. \$555,000 has been allocated to roads this year, an increase of \$75,000 over last year.

A large section of that budget has been earmarked as the county's portion of an upgrading of County Road

number one, formerly Highway 519. Under an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, the county will spend \$50,000 with the provincial government contributing an additional \$250,000 each year for the next five years. The province's participation was part of an agreement worked out when the county agreed with the province to exchange the Vankoughnet Road for Highway 519.

Fearrey noted that "a good deal of time" was spent on the details of the road budget. He noted that the roads provide a primary access to the county and the committee felt the expense was justified. He also pointed out that the additional construction activity will help the local economy.

An increase of \$12,000 was allowed in the general government section of the budget. This section, which covers the administrative

(more on page 2)

Councils share info service

A proposal to share in a promotional effort with the township of Lutterworth was approved in principle at the March 10 meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden township council. Before the vote was taken however, Deputy Reeve Ed Pergolas received a verbal slap on the wrist from the Reeve, Lyle McKnight.

The two townships have agreed to co-ordinate a joint promotional effort which will utilize land located on Highway 35 in Lutterworth Township. The site will be used for an information booth and sign board, pointing out sites of interest and activities taking place in the two municipalities.

The site is located on the west side of the highway near the Forest Echo Motel. Exact details as to how the information service will operate, when it will be staffed and how the costs will be shared have yet to be established.

The booth will be similar to ones being operated in Haliburton Village by the municipality of Dysart, and on Highway 121 by the municipality of Cardiff.

Reeve McKnight's comments to Deputy Reeve Ed

Pergolas concerned an article which appeared in the March 9 edition of the Haliburton County Echo. In that article the deputy reeve was quoted as saying the council was committed to proceeding with the joint venture.

McKnight pointed out that the matter (at that point in the meeting) had not been voted on by the council. "I feel something like this should come to the council first before appearing in the press," McKnight said. "What if we decided today that we were not going to do it?" the reeve asked.

He pointed out that through the article, one member of the council had committed the entire council to a certain position. "Until we have a resolution, passed by this council, a member of council shouldn't commit this council to anything," McKnight stated.

Deputy Reeve Pergolas admitted that he had acted incorrectly in saying what the council would do prior to the council approving it.

A vote was then taken on the matter and the proposal was approved in principle.



The final stage in the production of maple syrup is observed by Tim Casey and his son Pat. The syrup was prepared for market Sunday following a weekend of sap collection. The Casey farm was one of three visited by members of the Haliburton County Farmer's Association in a familiarization tour Saturday. For more pictures, please turn to page 5.

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- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this building!



Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30



Loop Road \$220,000

- Food Truck and 1100+ sq.ft building with multiple uses.
- Good location.



Darlene Reil*
447-2055



Soyers Lake \$474,900

- Quiet bay, 344' waterfront
- 4 season home
- 2 acres



Christine Sharp*
286-2138 x59



Starter/Retirement Home \$269,000

- Open concept, one level living
- 2 bedrooms plus an office/den for overflow
- Forced-air propane heating plus woodstove
- Private 1-acre property with carport.



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28



Minden Executive Home \$549,000

- Bungalow w/finished walk-out lower level
- 4 Bdrms, 2.5 baths, Cathedral Ceilings
- On Beaver Creek, 2 acres.
- Det'd Dbl Garage & Det'd Insulated, Heated Shop



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 32



Moore Lake \$589,000

- Year round, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths
- Fabulous hard sand waterfront
- Includes garage and boathouse



Tom Wilkinson**
286-2138 x 25



Redstone Lake \$675,000

- Beautiful 3-bedroom, 2 bath home or cottage
- Large windows & deck overlooking the lake
- Southern Exposure, sand beach on Redstone Lake



Andrea Wilson**
457-2128 x 25



Gull Lake \$799,000

- 400+ ft of waterfront & 1.5+ acres
- Private seasonal road, only a few neighbours
- Build your dream cottage on the premium Haliburton Highlands lake



Andy Campbell
854-0292



West Guilford Lot \$134,900

- On Busy Kennis Lk Rd, Commercial
- Well and Hydro, Level Easy Access
- 244 ft Frontage, 1.8 Acres per MPAC



Gloria Carnochan**
754-1932

**PROUDLY PART OF THE HALIBURTON
HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY!**

CENTURY 21 Granite Realty
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